

Claims:

1. A wetting apparatus for wetting a hydrophilic urinary catheter comprising a wetting receptacle which defines a wetting fluid receiving area for receiving a hydrophilic urinary catheter and a hydrophilic urinary catheter wetting fluid container having a discharge outlet movable from a closed position to an open position on application of a predetermined condition thereto to enable the wetting fluid to be discharged from the wetting fluid container characterised in that the wetting fluid container is integrated with the wetting receptacle in an operational position in which at least the discharge outlet of the wetting fluid container is disposed within the bounds of the wetting receptacle, the wetting receptacle being so constructed and the wetting fluid container being so disposed relative to the wetting receptacle when in the operational position that application of the predetermined condition to the discharge outlet of the wetting fluid container when in the operational position enables the wetting fluid to be discharged into the wetting fluid receiving area for wetting of the hydrophilic urinary catheter and that the insertable length or substantially the insertable length of the hydrophilic urinary catheter is wetted by the wetting fluid discharged into the wetting fluid receiving area.
2. A wetting apparatus for wetting a hydrophilic urinary catheter comprising a wetting receptacle which defines a wetting fluid receiving area for receiving a hydrophilic urinary catheter and a hydrophilic urinary catheter wetting fluid container having a discharge outlet movable from a closed position to an open position on application of a predetermined condition thereto to enable the wetting fluid to be discharged from the wetting fluid container characterised in that the wetting fluid container is integrable with the wetting receptacle in an operational position in which at least the discharge outlet of the wetting fluid container is disposed within the bounds of the wetting receptacle, the wetting receptacle being so constructed and the wetting fluid container being so disposed relative to the wetting receptacle when in the operational position that application of the predetermined condition to the discharge outlet of the wetting fluid container when in the

operational position enables the wetting fluid to be discharged into the wetting fluid receiving area for wetting of the hydrophilic urinary catheter.

3. A wetting apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the wetting fluid is water or a saline solution.

4. A wetting apparatus according to claim 1, 2 or 3, characterised in that the wetting fluid receiving area is an elongate pocket of length sufficient to accommodate at least the insertable length of the hydrophilic urinary catheter and that the wetting fluid container is adapted to contain sufficient wetting fluid to fill the pocket to a level for wetting at least the insertable length of the hydrophilic urinary catheter.

5. A wetting apparatus according to claim 4, characterised in that the wetting receptacle is a urine collection bag, that the elongate pocket forms the forward portion of the urine collection bag and presents an open rear end and a weakened closed forward end which is removable upon application of a predetermined pressure thereto thereby to enable a portion of the hydrophilic urinary catheter comprising at least the insertable length thereof to be projected through the forward end of the pocket after wetting thereof for insertion into the urethra of a patient, and that the urine collection bag further comprises a urine collection chamber to the rear of the elongate pocket, the urine collection chamber having a forward end which is in fluid communication with the open rear end of the pocket and being adapted in use to collect urine transported rearwardly through the hydrophilic urinary catheter after insertion thereof into the urethra of the patient.

6. A wetting apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the wetting fluid container contains sterile water or saline solution and is made of a material which is impermeable to ethylene oxide and water or saline solution.

7. A wetting apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the wetting fluid container is made of aluminium foil, poly(vinylidene chloride) or a metallised film such as metallised poly(ethylene terephthalate).

8. A wetting apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the wetting fluid container is fully contained within the bounds of the wetting receptacle.

9. A wetting apparatus according to claim 8, characterised in that the wetting fluid container is permanently fixed to the inner surface of the wetting receptacle.

10. A wetting apparatus according to claim 8, characterised in that the wetting fluid container is an integrally formed compartment of the wetting receptacle.

11. A wetting apparatus according to claim 8, 9 or 10, characterised in that the wetting receptacle is formed of a flexible material and that the discharge outlet is brought to the open position through application of a predetermined force to the wetting fluid container through the material of the wetting receptacle.

12. A wetting apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 7, characterised in that the wetting receptacle is provided with an inlet which is in fluid communication with the wetting fluid receiving area and that the wetting fluid container is integrable with the wetting receptacle in the operational position by insertion of at least a forward portion thereof in the inlet, the forward portion of the wetting fluid container presenting the discharge outlet.

13. A wetting apparatus according to claim 12, characterised in that the wetting fluid container is integrable with the wetting receptacle in the operational position through a friction fit between the wetting fluid container and the inlet of the wetting receptacle.

14. A wetting apparatus according to claim 12 or 13, characterised in that the wetting fluid container comprises predetermined condition applying means for applying the predetermined condition to the discharge outlet to bring the discharge outlet to the open position.

15. A wetting apparatus according to claim 14, characterised in that the forward portion of the wetting fluid container is positioned in the inlet of the wetting receptacle when the wetting fluid container is in the operational position, that the wetting fluid container comprises a rearward portion which in the operational position of the wetting fluid container projects from the inlet of the wetting receptacle and that the rearward portion comprises at least a part of the predetermined condition applying means.

16. A wetting apparatus according to any one of claims 12 to 15, characterised in that the discharge outlet comprises an area of weakness in the material of the forward portion of the wetting fluid container which on application of a predetermined force thereto is brought to the open position.

17. A wetting apparatus according to claim 16 as appendant to claim 15, characterised in that the at least a part of the predetermined condition applying means comprised of the rearward portion of the wetting fluid container is a tab which on application of a predetermined pulling force thereto causes the predetermined force to be applied to the area of weakness in the material of the forward portion of the wetting fluid container.

18. A wetting apparatus according to claim 17, characterised in that the area of weakness in the material of the forward portion of the wetting fluid container is a tear line which is torn on application of the predetermined pulling force to the tab.

19. A wetting apparatus according to claim 17 or 18, characterised in that the predetermined condition applying means further comprises holding means for holding the

wetting fluid container in the operational position against the action of the predetermined pulling force applied to the tab.

20. A wetting apparatus according to claim 19, characterised in that the wetting receptacle is of a flexible material and that the holding means is provided on the forward portion to be gripped by a user through the material of the wetting receptacle when the wetting fluid container is in the operational position.

21. A wetting apparatus according to claim 20, characterised in that the forward portion of the wetting fluid container presents a forward edge, that the tear line extends rearwardly from the forward edge, that the tab is a first tab which extends rearwardly from the forward edge of the forward portion on a first side of the tear line and is of such dimensions that when the wetting fluid container is in the operational position the first tab projects from the inlet of the wetting receptacle, that the holding means for holding the wetting fluid container in the operational position against the action of the pulling force applied to the first tab is a second tab which extends forwardly from the forward edge on a second opposite side of the tear line and that application of a predetermined rearward pulling force on the first tab relative to the second tab causes the tear line to tear and the wetting fluid to be dischargeable from the wetting fluid container into the wetting fluid receiving area of the wetting receptacle.

22. A wetting apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 9, claim 11 when appendant to claim 8 or 9, or any one of claims 12 to 21, characterised in that the wetting fluid container takes the form of a sachet.

23. A fluid container for use with a receptacle having an inlet and a fluid receiving area in fluid communication with the inlet, the fluid container comprising a forward portion which is adapted to be positioned in the inlet of the receptacle and comprises a discharge outlet movable on application of a predetermined condition thereto from a closed position in which the fluid is retained in the fluid container to an open position in which the fluid is

dischargeable forwardly from the forward portion of the fluid container, the predetermined condition able to be applied to the discharge outlet when the forward portion of the fluid container is positioned in the inlet to enable the fluid contained in the fluid container to be discharged into the fluid receiving area of the receptacle.

24. A wetting fluid container for use with a wetting receptacle having an inlet and a wetting fluid receiving area for receiving a hydrophilic urinary catheter and in fluid communication with the inlet, the wetting fluid container comprising a forward portion which is adapted to be positioned in the inlet of the receptacle and comprises a discharge outlet movable on application of a predetermined condition thereto from a closed position in which the wetting fluid is retained in the wetting fluid container to an open position in which the wetting fluid is dischargeable forwardly from the forward portion of the wetting fluid container, the predetermined condition able to be applied to the discharge outlet when the forward portion of the wetting fluid container is positioned in the inlet to enable the wetting fluid contained in the wetting fluid container to be discharged into the wetting fluid receiving area of the receptacle.

25. A fluid container according to claim 23 or 24, characterised in that the fluid container comprises predetermined condition applying means for applying the predetermined condition to the discharge outlet to bring the discharge outlet to the open position.

26. A fluid container according to claim 25, characterised in that when the forward portion of the fluid container is positioned in the inlet of the receptacle the fluid container is in an operational position, that the fluid container comprises a rearward portion which in the operational position of the fluid container projects from the inlet of the receptacle and that the rearward portion comprises at least a part of the predetermined condition applying means.

27. A fluid container according to any one of claims 23 to 26, characterised in that the discharge outlet comprises an area of weakness in the material of the forward portion of the fluid container which on application of a predetermined force thereto is brought to the open position.

28. A fluid container according to claim 27 as appendant to claim 26, characterised in that the at least a part of the predetermined condition applying means comprised of the rearward portion of the fluid container is a tab which on application of a predetermined pulling force thereto causes the predetermined force to be applied to the area of weakness in the material of the forward portion of the fluid container.

29. A fluid container according to claim 28, characterised in that the area of weakness in the material of the forward portion of the fluid container is a tear line which is torn on application of the predetermined pulling force to the tab.

30. A fluid container according to claim 28 or 29, characterised in that the predetermined condition applying means further comprises holding means for holding the fluid container in the operational position against the action of the predetermined pulling force applied to the tab.

31. A fluid container according to claim 30, characterised in that the receptacle is of a flexible material and that the holding means is provided on the forward portion to be gripped by a user through the material of the receptacle when the fluid container is in the operational position.

32. A fluid container according to claim 31, characterised in that the forward portion of the fluid container presents a forward edge, that the tear line extends rearwardly from the forward edge, that the tab is a first tab which extends rearwardly from the forward edge of the forward portion on a first side of the tear line and is of such dimensions that when the fluid container is in the operational position the first tab projects from the inlet of the

receptacle, that the holding means for holding the fluid container in the operational position against the action of the pulling force applied to the first tab is a second tab which extends forwardly from the forward edge to a second opposite side of the tear line and that application of a predetermined rearward pulling force on the first tab relative to the second tab causes the tear line to tear and the fluid to be dischargeable from the fluid container into the fluid receiving area of the receptacle.

33. A fluid container according to claim 26, claim 27 as appendant to claim 26 or any one of claims 28 to 32, characterised in that the fluid container is adapted to be friction fitted in the inlet of the receptacle to maintain the fluid container in the operational position.

34. A fluid container according to any one of claims 23 to 33, characterised in that the fluid container is a sachet.

35. A fluid container according to any one of claims 23 to 34, characterised in that the fluid container is made of aluminium foil, poly(vinylidene chloride) or a metallised film such as metallised poly(ethylene terephthalate).

36. A fluid container according to any one of claims 23 to 35, characterised in that the fluid container contains water or a saline solution.